

In claims 20 and 21, please change "18" to --19--.

In claims 23 and 24, please change "21" to --22--.

In claim 25, please change "~~23~~" to --22--.

REMARKS

The application has been amended in order to expedite prosecution and advance the case towards issuance. These amendments add no new matter, are fully supported by the application as filed, and should not be construed as limiting the appropriate scope of protection provided under the doctrine of equivalents. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, for the reasons set forth in detail below.

Applicant responds below to each of the objections and/or rejections set forth or maintained in the non-final Office Action mailed September 1, 1998.

I. Priority/Oath/Declaration

The Examiner notes that reference to all parent applications and a new oath or declaration is required for Applicant to have benefit of the earliest filing date of September 20, 1991.

In order to expedite prosecution and advance the case towards issuance, Applicant has amended the application to refer to all parent applications. Applicant notes that this application was filed as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/157,511 ("the